

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00637 271555Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 NSC-05  
DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01  
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /067 W  
-----271808Z 013747 /53

P R 271515Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6003  
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0637

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF  
SUBJECT: BANNING OF BPC LEADERS

REF: PRETORIA 2011

1. US, UK, BRITISH, CANADIAN, GERMAN, AUSTRIAN AND  
SWEDISH EMBASSIES HAVE RECEIVED TELEGRAMS FROM BLACK  
PEOPLES CONVENTION (BPC) PRESIDENT RACHIDI REQUESTING  
"STRONGEST PROTEST" AGAINST BANNING ORDERS ERVED  
APRIL 21 ON DR. MAMPHELE RAMPHELE AND NXOLISI MVOVO, BPC  
VICE PRESIDENT. MESSAGE STATES: "ON THURSDAY, DR. RAMPHELE  
AND MVOVO WERE SERVED WITH BANNING ORDERS. HOUSE ARREST  
FOR MVOVO BANISHMENT TO PIETERSBURG RAMPHELE. BOTH  
SENIOR MEMBERS BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS MOVEMENT. NEEDED STRONG-  
EST PROTEST YOUR GOVERNMENT SOONEST. INDICATE ACTION  
TO BLACK PEOPLES' CONVENTION 15 LEOPOLD STREET.  
RACHIDI PRESIDENT."

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2. RAMPHELE AND MVOVO ARE KNOWN TO EMBASSY AS RELATIVELY  
MODERATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE FORCES IN BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS  
MOVEMENT. IT IS POSSIBLE STEVE BIKO (CAPE TOWN 0157  
NOTAL), WHO WE UNDERSTAND IS MVOVO'S BROTHER-IN-LAW,  
HAD A HAND IN STIMULATING RACHIDI'S TELEGRAM. HE, LIKE  
OTHERS, HAVE PREVIOUSLY URGED US PUBLICLY TO CONDEMN

SUCH SAG ACTIONS AS BANNING.

3. IN LIGHT OF STANDING OF BPC IN BLACK COMMUNITY (JOHANNESBURG 0569 NOTAL), BELIEVE WE SHOULD GIVE RACHIDI SOME REPLY AND CONSIDER HOW WE MIGHT HANDLE HIS REQUEST FOR PROTEST OF RAMPHELE/MVOVO BANNINGS. AT SAME TIME, WE DO NOT WANT TO PUT OURSELVES IN POSITION OF BEING EXPECTED TO REACT TO ALL BANNINGS AS THEY COME ALONG. NOR IS THE PRESENT MOMENT, DURING THE NAMIBIA TALKS, AUSPICIOUS FOR PUBLIC US COMMENT ON THE BANNINGS.

4. PROPOSE WE REPLY ORALLY TO RACHIDI, CONFIRMING RECEIPT OF HIS TELEGRAM AND SAYING THAT, WHILE SAG IS WELL AWARE OF OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SUCH PRACTICES AS BANNINGS, WE ARE CONSIDERING HOW WE CAN REACT IN THE MOST USEFUL WAY.

5. FOLLOWING NAMIBIA TALKS THIS WEEK, SUGGEST DEPT CONSIDER ARRANGING EARLIEST SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING TO COMMENT ON SA PRACTICE OF DENYING INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY WITHOUT DUE PROCESS OF LAW. QUESTION TO BRIEFER COULD INCLUDE REFERENCE TO RAMPHELE/MVOVO BANNINGS AS LATEST EXAMPLE OF SUCH PRACTICE, BUT BELIEVE RESPONSE SHOULD BE GENERAL IN NATURE. PROPOSE A STATEMENT ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "THE USG HAS PREVIOUSLY MADE CLEAR--BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY--ITS POSITION REGARDING SUCH ACTIONS AS DETENTIONS AND BANNINGS OF INDIVIDUALS  
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IN SA WITH OUT CHARGE OR TRIAL. WE DEPLORE THESE METHODS WHEREVER THEY ARE USED. THE DENIAL OF LIBERTY WITHOUT DUE PROCESS OF LAW VIOLATES ONE OF THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS".BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, SF, BPC, (RAMPHELE, MAMPHELE), (MVOVO, NXOLISI)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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